
NORMANBY AVENUE GATEHOUSE

Location

39 SHAFTSBURY PARADE, THORNBURY VIC 3071

Municipality

DAREBIN CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7822-2406

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 4, 2021

The gatehouse located at the intersection of the Normanby Avenue and the South Morang rail corridor represents key railway infrastructure that supported the operation of the rail line in the late 19th and early to mid-20th century. The site possesses historical significance for its association with transport infrastructure that was key for the expansion of Melbourne's industrial capacity and population growth. The use of materials such as bluestone and timber in the construction of the gatehouse also represents technical significance as an example of late 19th / early 20th century rail infrastructure. The use of these materials, which are likely to have been locally sourced, also represents economic significance, with the construction of the gatehouse contributing to the growth and output of other industries, such as lumber and quarrying industries.

The site addresses the following categories in Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes:

- Theme 3: Connecting Victorians by transport and communications.
 - o Subtheme 3.3 Linking Victorians by rail
- Theme 5: Building Victoria's industries and workforce.
 - o Subtheme 5.2 Developing a manufacturing capacity

- Theme 6: Building towns, cities and the garden state.

- o Subtheme 6.3 Shaping the suburbs

Interpretation of Site The structural features uncovered are highly likely to represent a portion of the former Normanby Avenue / South Morang railway gatehouse and, based on the use of timber and bluestone as components of these structural features, may represent the original gatehouse constructed as part of the larger South Morang railway line in 1889. The size, shape and materials observed in the structural features identified so far indicate that this may represent the wooden structure depicted in Figure 4. Based on the structural features uncovered so far, it is likely that additional features are located to the west and east of the current findspot. However, if the structural features uncovered so far are indeed associated with the wooden structure depicted in Figure 4, it appears that features associated with the primary gatehouse structure may have been mostly removed.

Other Names Gatehouse No. 17,

Hermes Number 207097

Property Number

History

The 1909 MMBW plan (no. 2090) details the section of the South Morang rail corridor within which the proposed site is situated (Figure 2). The plan map shows a structure within the proposed site extent area that is labelled 'Gatehouse No. 17', and displays the primary structure, as well as a porch attached to the structure's north-east and a tank (likely either a water tank or septic tank) attached to the building's south (Figure 3). A structure the same size and shape and in a location that corresponds to the MMBW plan can be seen in an image of the Normanby Avenue level crossing dated to August 1967 (Figure 4). Based on the location and the nature of the structural features identified during CSR works (Figure 5, Figure 6), it is likely that they represent the small, wooden structure that is visible within the outlined area of the 1967 image.

The South Morang rail line, originally known as the Whittlesea rail line, was opened in 1889 (Lovell Chen 2020). Based on the 1909 MMBW plan of the area, it is likely that the gatehouse visible in this plan represents the original gatehouse for the Normanby Avenue crossing of the rail line.

Aerial imagery of the rail line shows that the surrounding area had been heavily developed by 1945, predominantly for residential purposes (Figure 7). A structure within the area containing the gatehouse is visible, however the image quality does not allow for individual features of the structure to be differentiated from one another.

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>